



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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December 10, 2003, Control Date Established for the Commercial Penaeid Shrimp Fishery of the South Atlantic Region

On March 04, 2004, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to revise an established control date for the commercial penaeid shrimp fishery operating in federal waters of the South Atlantic region. By way of that notice, the public is advised that, in the future, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) may consider management measures to limit entry into the shrimp fishery, and may use this revised control date of **December 10, 2003**, as a qualifying criterion for participation in the fishery.

Request for Comments:

Comments on the establishment of this revised control date must be submitted by **April 5, 2004**. Comments should be directed to:

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
One Southpark Circle, Suite 306
Charleston, South Carolina 29407-4699
telephone: 843-571-4366
fax: 843-769-4520
email: email@safmc.net

Background

The SAFMC anticipates that future action may be necessary to control effort in the shrimp fishery in the South Atlantic region. Should the SAFMC take action to control effort in the fishery, the public would have several opportunities to provide comment regarding that action. The SAFMC would accept comment during its deliberations on any such future

action, and once the action was submitted for review and implementation by the Secretary of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries would also request public comment on the proposed action.

The public is reminded that establishment of this control date does not commit the SAFMC or NOAA Fisheries to any particular management regime or criteria for entry into the commercial shrimp fishery. Fishermen are not guaranteed future participation in any fishery regardless of their entry date or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control date. Use of the control date in future management actions would mean that anyone who entered the fishery after the control date would not be assured of future access. Fishermen participating in the fishery prior to the control date are not guaranteed future participation in the fishery, either. The SAFMC may choose to give consideration to fishermen who were active before or after the control date, based on criteria such as landings and sales. The SAFMC subsequently may choose a different control date or they may choose a management regime that does not make use of a control date. The SAFMC also may choose to take no further action to control participation in the fishery, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/>. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Department of Commerce.